



U.S. EMBASSY, SANTIAGO AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

U.S. Embassy, Santiago

December 2017

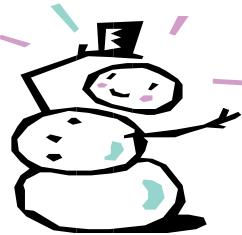
Traveling overseas for the holidays???

Check out the improved U.S. Department of State-Bureau of Consular Affairs' website by [clicking the picture below](#). Visiting other countries can be a great experience. Whether you are traveling for work or pleasure, solo or in a group, staying for a few days or several years, planning ahead can help ensure your time

abroad is both enjoyable and safe.

The first step to an international trip is to read our [Traveler's Checklist](#) to find out things to consider before you go. Pay special attention to [our safety and security information](#) and assess for yourself the risk of traveling to a particular

country or region. Some U.S. citizens with [special considerations](#) – such as students, women, and LGBTI travelers – may face additional challenges when abroad. If you do decide to travel, make a plan for what to do if [something goes wrong](#) overseas.



Because every traveler is unique, the website provides tailored information for each type of traveler. Click below for more:

- ◆ [Travel to high risk areas](#)
- ◆ [Cruise Ship Passengers](#)
- ◆ [Considerations for older passengers](#)
- ◆ [LGBTI Travel Info](#)
- ◆ [Women solo travelers](#)
- ◆ [Traveling with disabilities](#)
- ◆ [Faith-based travel](#)

The screenshot shows the Travel.State.Gov homepage with a navigation bar at the top. Below it, there are sections for International Travel, U.S. Visas, Intercountry Adoption, and International Parental Child Abduction. A main banner features a map of Europe with a coffee cup containing a cinnamon airplane. Below the banner, there's a section titled "International Travel" with a "GET READY TO GO WITH THE TRAVELER'S CHECKLIST" button. To the right, there's a "Learn about your destination" section with a "VIEW ALL ALERTS AND WARNINGS" button and a "Travel Tip" section.

Enroll your overseas travel on STEP

The [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) is a free service to allow U.S. Citizens traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy. By enrolling, you can receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination

country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans. The Embassy can also contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest or family emergency. If you are a frequent traveler, you can also create an account.

[Stay informed.](#)
[Stay Connected.](#)
[Stay Safe!](#)

FREQUENT TRAVELER?
Create an account



Consul's Corner

Hola! My name is Matt McAllister and I am the new American Citizen Services Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Santiago. I arrived in Chile in late September and will be here for the next three years. Before my current assignment in Chile, I spent two years at the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela, two years at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, China, and one year at the U.S. Consulate General in Erbil, Iraq. In addition to Spanish, I speak Mandarin Chinese and Kurdish. As American Citizen Services Chief, I'm tasked with providing both routine and

emergency assistance to U.S. citizens living or traveling in Chile. This can

The U.S. Citizen Services Unit welcomed our new Consul back in September. Welcome, Matt!

range from renewing passports and issuing consular reports of birth abroad to assisting arrested citizens or victims of crime.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish peace and joy to you and your family this holiday season. May your holidays and the new year be filled with lots of happiness, peace and prosperity.



Just to clarify, Matt is the one on the left!

Changes in Social Security Services

The most effective and cost-efficient way to contact the Regional Federal Benefits Unit is now via the fillable form found on the U.S. Embassy website. Just click on the Social Security tab found under U.S. Citizens Services. You should no longer make

an appointment at the Embassy for benefit claims or consults; you must contact SSA directly using the [online form](#). Please see our [website](#) for further information.



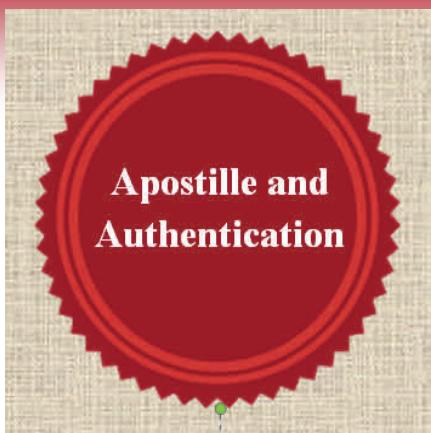
Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a U.S. Citizen



To determine if your child acquired U.S. Citizenship at birth and for information on how to apply for a CRBA at U.S. Embassy, Santiago, click on the picture.

A child born to a U.S. Citizen parent or parents while being overseas may have acquired U.S. Citizenship at birth if certain requirements were met. The requirements will vary depending on different factors, such as if one or both parents are U.S. Citizens, their marital status, the date of birth of the child, time of physical presence in the U.S. and other.

We encourage all U.S. citizens who have had children while living in Chile to determine if their child is eligible for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) by checking the steps stated on the U.S. Embassy Santiago website. By law, U.S. Citizens, including dual nationals, must use a U.S. passport to enter and leave the United States.



The U.S. Embassy in Santiago does not perform any authentication or Apostille services of U.S. issued documents, nor of any Chilean documents for use in the U.S.

We often receive questions and requests for authentication or apostille of U.S. issued documents, but unfortunately, U.S. Embassies overseas do not provide this service.

On August 30, 2016 the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention) was implemented in Chile. As a result, U.S. public documents for use in Chile are no longer subject to the legalization process. A U.S. state issued document may be apostilled by the appropriate U.S. state competent authorities. Click here to find a list of those authorities: <https://www.hcch.net/en/states/authorities/details3/?aid=353>

U.S. Federal Documents may be apostilled by the Office of Authentications at the U.S. State Department's [Office of Authentications](#).

Once an Apostille is obtained, no other form of authentication is required.

Because of the implementation of the Apostille Convention in Chile, the U.S. Embassy no longer performs routine authentication services of Chilean public documents for use in the United States.

Information on obtaining Apostilles for Chilean public documents may be found on the [Chilean Foreign Affairs Ministry's website](#).

Additional information on the Apostille Convention and its application may be found on the Hague Conference website's specialized [Apostille Section](#).

Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program

International parental child abduction is the removal or retention of a child outside their country of habitual residence in breach of another parent or guardian's custody rights. The Office of Children's Issues within the U.S. Department of State is a leader in U.S. government efforts to [prevent international parental child abduction](#) (both from the United States and to the United States), help children and families involved in abduction cases, and promote the objectives of the [Hague Abduction Convention](#).

If you believe your child is in the process of being abducted by a parent, legal guardian, or someone acting on their behalf, you can call the Office of Children's Issues: 1-888-407-4747 or 202-501-4444.

The Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) allows the Department of State's Office of Children's Issues to contact parent(s) or legal guardians(s) of an enrolled child to verify whether the [parental consent requirement](#) for minor passport issuance has been met when a passport application has been submitted for the child. In addition, upon a child's enrollment in the CPIAP, we may alert the enrolling parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pending passport application and past passport issuances for the child. Only U.S. citizens or children who qualify for U.S. citizenship under the age of 18 can be enrolled in this program.

For further information on Parental Child Abduction, Prevention tips, Passport Issuance Alert Program and more, check out travel.state.gov



2018 U.S. Midterm Elections



The 2018 United States midterm elections will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. These elections will take place in the middle of President Donald Trump's term. All 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be contested. 39 state and territorial governorships and numerous other state and local elections will also be contested.

Regardless of where they are in the world, most U.S. citizens can vote. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure that Service Members and U.S. Citizens overseas are aware of their right to vote and are able to successfully cast their vote from anywhere in the world. Start the process as soon as possible using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) which is a form you can use to both register with your state elections officials and request your absentee ballot. It only takes a few quick steps to make sure your vote is counted no matter where you are in the world. The FPCA can be completed by using the [FPCA online assistant](#) or filling out the [PDF](#). The online assistant will guide you through the process of completing the form. Once you complete the form, you will be able to download and print the PDF package to sign and send to your election office. This PDF package even includes a pre-addressed and postage-paid label so you

don't have to worry about finding stamps! We encourage you to send in a new FPCA every year and when you move. Many states allow you to submit your FPCA electronically, and if your state allows you to send your ballot through email or fax, we also encourage you to choose this option. Mail delivery times from Chile can vary. Starting January, the U.S. Embassy will once again place our secure voting box at the main entrance, so U.S. Citizens can drop off their FPCAs or ballots to be sent to the U.S. via diplomatic mail. Be mindful that mailing times are at least 20 business days, and this kind of mail goes out only once a week. If you requested your absentee ballot and haven't received it from your State at least 30 days before the election, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). The

FWAB is an emergency backup ballot. This backup ballot can be completed using The [FWAB online assistant](#) or by filling out the [PDF](#). The online assistant will guide you through the process of completing the form. Once you complete the form, you will be able to download and print the PDF package to sign and send to your election office. This PDF package also includes a pre-addressed and postage-paid label. Don't forget a security envelope. (Use a separate blank envelope and write "Security Envelope" on it and place your voted ballot in it. This keeps your vote private.)

[For contact information for the Federal Voting Assistance Program \(FVAP\), click here](#)



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

[Click here to start this process on the FVAP.GOV website](#)

U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES

U.S. EMBASSY, SANTIAGO
AV. ANDRES BELLO 2800
LAS CONDES
SANTIAGO

E-mail: santiagousa@state.gov
<https://cl.usembassy.gov/>



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